

Data Integration Strategies *Abstract*

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In "Facing Tomorrow's Challenges—U.S. Geological Survey Science in the Decade 2007-2017" (Science Strategy), the USGS recognizes the pivotal role of data integration as a foundation for science. An interdisciplinary team was assembled to develop a "Data Integration and Interoperability Blueprint" to help identify an overall direction to begin achieving the vision for robust and reliable data at the scientist's fingertips described in the Science Strategy. A critical element in achieving data integration is effective engagement with and sponsorship of scientific communities of practice through which data standards can be identified and implemented and the creation of authoritative data sources with effective data stewardship can be achieved.

Focusing on climate change and the other themes from the Science Strategy, the partnership led by the Geospatial Information Office is bringing together a set of "building block" projects that leverage existing resources to establish a foundation of technology and information science capability while addressing the immediate data and information management needs of science teams.

The partnership seeks to develop a network of data professionals throughout USGS science programs to work in concert toward a distributed and yet integrated system of data providers.